

## Department of Revenue employee eliminates waste, saves her agency thousands

One suggester proved you don't have to be working within a Washington zip code to help the state save money.

Michelle Huffman, a Revenue Auditor with the Washington State Department of Revenue, helped her agency by making a suggestion while working for the department in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

The department had telephone lines dedicated for faxes from out-of-state auditors. After much research, Huffman found these lines were not being used enough to justify the agency keeping them. Employees and taxpayers were scanning and e-mailing documents instead.

She proposed that the state no longer pay for these dedicated fax lines, instead encouraging employees to use their scanners and communicate via e-mail.

The Department of Revenue quickly implemented Huffman's suggestion, saving \$15,081 in the first year alone.

## DOT employee continues agency's crusade to save money with new suggestion

The Department of Transportation has always encouraged its employees to find ways to save money, and the results have netted astounding success.

In the last year and a half, the agency and its employees have saved Washington State over \$2 million, and with suggestions like the one from Ben Shaw, a Transportation System Tech with the NW Bridge Maintenance office, those savings will continue.

Recently, Shaw noticed substantial energy costs being used by a pair of moveable bridges within the state. His suggestion was to turn off the heaters in the machinery areas on the west bridge of the SR-99 draw bridges.

The department implemented this suggestion and reduced the thermostat settings, providing \$12,200 in first-year savings.